

sonal life should fill us with adoration, and at the same time with meekness of spirit.

When we go forth each day to our appointed tasks, what consecration and divine trust should mark our choices! How near to Him should we live! How painstaking all those little threads of influence which are secretly woven into the texture of life: little in human thought, but mighty, so often, in the formation of character in ourselves and others!

How can we live a single hour without prayer? How we ought to cherish habits of charity toward all, increasing the sum of human happiness by our godly cheerfulness, stimulating the virtuous, helping the weak, sympathizing with the distressed, advocating the cause of the oppressed! In this way it will be found that the Master meets us daily in the way, going before us in everything to direct our steps. Thus, in companionship with Him, we shall be always ready to hear Him speak the final words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!"

The Sunday School

LESSON FOR JUNE 19

BY THE EDITOR

The Risen Lord.—Matthew 28: 8-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.—I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive forevermore. Rev. 1: 18.

LESSON THOUGHT.—It is the mission of the Christian church to bear the glad tidings of a risen Saviour to all the ends of the earth.

Introductory Notes

This lesson on the resurrection is of more than usual importance. The more so, because it includes the giving of the great commission, and June 19, being the day set apart for the several missions of the church, the lesson should be made one of special interest as well as special importance. The resurrection of Christ is a great historical fact, an indisputable fact. But it is more than a fact. Faith in a historical fact does not necessarily change a man's life, while faith in the resurrection of Christ has for these 1800 years lifted humanity nearer to God and wrought marvelous changes in the hearts and lives of men and women. You may believe with all your heart that six times seven is forty-two, but it will have no effect on your character, while faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in his resurrection has changed millions of human lives for better and will continue to do so until the world is conquered for Christ. Let us all study this lesson with true reverence and humility, then having learned of the blessed story of Jesus and the transforming power of his resurrection, let us give our life and means that others too may learn the sweet old story, and learning it, believe and be saved.

Meaning of the Text

8. *Departed quickly.* The angel had told the women at the sepulchre to go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus was risen. They promptly obeyed, asking no questions whatever. *Fear—joy.* "Fear at what they had seen, joy at what they had heard, and both mingled because the latter seemed too good to be true." To fear the Lord is a command, to be afraid of him is not.

9. *As they went.* That is as they were on their way to deliver the message which the angel had given them. *Met them.* Jesus met them just as had been told them. He always meets us when in the path of duty, telling others the good news of the Savior risen. This was the second appearance of Jesus after his resurrection, the first being to Mary Magdalene. *All hail.* Rejoice. There was great cause for rejoicing. *Held—feet.* An act of homage and reverence, for it is said they worshipped him.

10. *Be not afraid.* There was no occasion to be afraid, it was the same Jesus who had been crucified. *Tell—brethren.* The same message which the angel had given them.

11. *Were going.* To tell the disciples as they had been bidden. *The watch.* The guard stationed by Pilate at the tomb. *Shewed—priests.* Christ's resurrection is first told to the enemies by Roman soldiers, but to the beloved of Jesus the angel breaks the glad news. *Things—were done.* The object of the soldiers was to escape the penalty of the law and they made a truthful report of the whole matter to the priests.

12-14. *Assembled.* They met with the elders to talk the matter over. *Counsel.* They conferred together as to what would be the best thing to do. *Large money.* The story of the soldiers would criminate them and it would require many pieces of silver to get their consent to the fraud. *Stole him away.* How would the soldiers know who stole the body if they slept? Besides for a Roman soldier to sleep when on such duty would mean death as a penalty. *Secure you.* The priests saw the weakness of the plan and thus besides giving money promise to protect the soldiers in the fraud. *Until this day.* At the time of the writing of this gospel the story made up by the soldiers was still reported among the Jews.

16. *Then.* The false rumor by the priests did not disturb the disciples. They knew that they had not stolen the body of Jesus. *The eleven.* Judas was no longer with them, having perished by suicide. *Into Galilee.* Where the angel had told them to go. Matt. 28: 7. So Jesus before his death, 26: 32, and also after his resurrection. 28: 10. *Appointed them.* The place in Galilee may have been designated by him.

17. *Some doubted.* It required invincible and infallible proofs to convince the disciples. They are finally convinced, therefore, etc.

18-20. The three remaining verses contain the great commission, a commission such as had never before been delivered to man nor has it since. That commission is the

one important work of the Christian church today. For exposition see page 7.

The Lesson Applied

This lesson is to be given to the study of the great Commission Jesus gave to the disciples just before he ascended into heaven. We have already given an outline of the Commission on page 7, to which teacher and scholar are invited to turn. With that outline a glorious missionary lesson can be taught, and this is needed above all other things as we look at it. The Commission naturally divides itself into three parts, The Missionary, The Pastoral, and The Promise.

1. *Making Disciples.*—The R. V. says, "Go and make disciples," etc. This is the missionary work and it belongs to the whole church. Thro the eleven disciples Jesus spoke to all who would ever confess his name. He talks to us, to you, to me, to all members of the Christian church. The command is go. It will not do to sit down, fold our hands, enjoy our religion. We must do more. We are not only to preach to people, we are to go to them, go where they are. We need to get that little word go into our working creed, go to the homes of the godless and the unsaved, go to the heathen and preach to them the blessed gospel, yes, preach it to every creature. The nations will not come to us, we must go to them. Let these words of the Savior, not the dying words, but these living words, fire the missionary zeal in every heart and soul, and let there be a practical demonstration of the fact in a substantial collection for missionary purposes, on this Sabbath day.

2. *Teaching Disciples.*—It is not enough to make disciples, we must teach them. A disciple is a learner, a learner of Jesus. The work is not done when men and women are baptized. Then comes the instruction. What are we to teach them? Teach them what Christ had commanded, not some things, but all that he has commanded. They need to be taught in all Christian word, they have entered a school in which they will be learners and doers as long as they live.

3. *The Promise.*—What a glorious promise Christ has made to those who go out into the world to make disciples and do his work. "I am with you." Not in memory only, but he himself. Not was, nor will be, but I am with you.

The Great Commission

1. *The Author.*—Who is the author of this Commission? Who is bold enough to venture a universal religion, and ask a few poor fishermen to carry his doctrine into all the world? The author is Jesus, not the humble Nazarene only, not the crucified only, but the Christ, the Son of the living God, the risen Christ, the triumphant Christ, the crowned king of the universe. Has he anything, does he accomplish anything? 1. He has all the power of God. 2. He has all authority in heaven and in earth. 3. All the power in nature is his, the stars, the winds, the waves, the storms, do his bidding. 4. All human hearts are in his hands and at